

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An edible film coating composition for use in coating foods, confections, nutraceuticals and pharmaceuticals, comprising:
  - shellac in aqueous solution;
  - a hydrolyzed starch product having a dextrose equivalent of 10 or greater;
  - an effective amount of a plasticizer for making the composition non-sticky when applied as a coating; and
  - wherein a high gloss finish coating may be achieved.
2. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the ratio of shellac to hydrolyzed starch product is from 1/1 to 1/4.
3. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the ratio of shellac to hydrolyzed starch product is from 1/2 to 1/3.
4. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said hydrolyzed starch product has a dextrose equivalent in the range of 15 to 30.
5. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said hydrolyzed starch product has a dextrose equivalent in the range of 18 to 25.
6. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said shellac is provided in a concentration of about 25% aqueous solution.
7. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein

said shellac is provided in a concentration of about 20% aqueous solution.

8. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of triacetin, triethylcitrate, polyethylene glycol (molecular weight 200-8000), propylene glycol, glycerine, glycerol monostearate, diacetylated monoglyceride and polysorbate.

9. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the plasticizer is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight in the range of 400 to 8000.

10. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the plasticizer is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of 1000 or higher.

11. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the amount of plasticizer is 1% to 25% of the combined weight of said shellac and said hydrolyzed starch product.

12. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the amount of plasticizer is 1% to 10% of the combined weight of said shellac and said hydrolyzed starch product.

13. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the amount of plasticizer is 2% to 5% of the combined weight of the shellac and the hydrolyzed starch product.

14. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the plasticizer is polyethylene glycol with a molecular weight of about 3350.

15. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein

the plasticizer is polyethylene glycol with a molecular weight of about 8000.

16. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 including a colorant in an amount of 20% to 40% of the combined weight of the shellac and the hydrolyzed starch product.

17. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 16 wherein the colorant is FD&C lakes and dyes.

18. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 16 wherein the colorant is D&C lakes and dyes.

19. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 16 wherein the colorant includes titanium dioxide.

20. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 16 wherein the colorant includes iron oxides.

21. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 16 wherein the colorant includes pigments that are deposited on mica to produce a pearlescent effect.

22. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 16 wherein the amount of plasticizer is 5% to 20% of the combined weight of the shellac and hydrolyzed starch product.

23. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the composition is comprised of an aqueous solution with 5% to 20% solids.

24. An edible film coating composition in accordance with Claim 16 comprised of an aqueous solution containing 10% to 25% solids.

25. A stable coating solution for use in forming an edible film coating, comprising:

shellac in aqueous solution;

a hydrolyzed starch product having a dextrose equivalent of 10 or greater;

an effective amount of a plasticizer for making the composition non-sticky

when applied as a coating; and

an effective amount of ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid salt to make the solution remains stable for at least three months.

26. A stable coating solution in accordance with Claim 25 wherein the solution contains up to 40% solids.

27. A stable coating solution in accordance with Claim 25 wherein the salts of ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid include disodium, trisodium and tetrasodium salts of ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid.

28. A stable coating solution in accordance with Claim 27 wherein the concentration of ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid salt is about .5% to 2% of the solution.

29. A stable coating solution in accordance with Claim 25 comprised of approximately 9 parts shellac, approximately 18 parts of a hydrolyzed starch product having a dextrose equivalent of approximately 18, approximately 3 parts of polyethylene glycol (molecular weight of approximately 8000) and 1 part being salt of ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid with the remainder being water.

30. A stable coating solution in accordance with Claim 25 comprised of

approximately 9 parts shellac, approximately 18 parts of a hydrolyzed starch product having a dextrose equivalent of approximately 20, approximately 2 parts of propylene glycol, approximately 1.2 parts ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid salt with the remainder being water.

31. A stable coating solution in accordance with Claim 25 including approximately 8.5 parts shellac, approximately 17 parts of a hydrolyzed starch product having a dextrose equivalent of 18, approximately 5 parts of polyethylene glycol and approximately .8 parts of ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid salt and the remainder being water.

32. A stable coating solution in accordance with Claim 25 including approximately 9 parts shellac, approximately 18 parts of a hydrolyzed starch product with a dextrose equivalent of approximately 18, approximately 1.5 parts propylene glycol, approximately 1.5 parts polyethylene glycol (molecular weight of about 8000) and approximately 1 part ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid salt with the remainder being water.

33. A stable coating solution in accordance with Claim 29 which includes a pigment dispersion to provide coloring.

34. A stable coating solution in accordance with Claim 31 including a colorant dispersion which includes FD&C red 40 lake and dye and titanium dioxide.